



# CALL TO ARTISTS

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

### Tacoma Town Center

#### BUDGET

\$295,000 all inclusive (artist fees, materials, equipment, insurance, installation, travel, taxes, engineering, etc.)

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE

April 15, 2018, 11:59 pm

#### SUMMARY

The City of Tacoma's Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality, in partnership with North America Asset Management Group, LLC (NAAM), is seeking an artist or artist team to participate as a lead artist on the design team and contribute art and design ideas for public spaces at the Tacoma Town Center complex. Spaces include but are not limited to the Fawcett Avenue thoroughfare, prominent corner of South 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Jefferson Avenue, and other streetscape improvements. In addition, the artist or artist team will create a signature piece of artwork for the site.

The lead artist or artist team will be encouraged to explore opportunities to enliven the Town Center's public spaces through art and design and add to the growing outdoor art experiences in and around the Prairie Line Trail, Museum District, University of Washington – Tacoma campus, Greater Tacoma Convention Center, and Brewery District.

Additional funds will be available to commission Tacoma artists to create discrete and/or integrated artworks for the site. The lead artist or artist team will assist in determining potential locations and opportunities for these additional artworks and will participate on the artist selection panel.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant(s) must live in Washington State or Oregon State.
- Applicant(s) can apply as a single artist or as an artist team.
- Applicant(s) must be 18 years or older and not a full-time student.
- Applicant(s) must be a professional artist.
- Applicant(s) cannot be a member of the Tacoma Arts Commission, an employee of the City of Tacoma, or an employee of NAAM.

People who are members of historically disenfranchised racial, ethnic, cultural, and other identity groups are encouraged to apply.

#### BACKGROUND

The Tacoma Town Center is a multi-phase, mixed-use, urban infill development as part of the City of Tacoma's master plan to improve the south downtown area. The site occupies more than 6 acres bordered by South 21<sup>st</sup> Street on the north, South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street on the south, Jefferson Avenue on the east, and Tacoma Avenue on the west.

Phase One-A of the project consists of 20,000 square feet of street-level retail space, 228 market rate housing units, and office space surrounding a retail plaza formed by the vacation of a city street. The retail plaza includes an important connection with the City of Tacoma's master bike path plan connecting to the University of Washington - Tacoma campus. The first two buildings will be on the South 23rd Street side of the project (buildings 2 and 4 on the attached site plan.)

Phase One-B of the project includes plans for additional housing units and 180,000 square feet of retail space in two separate structures (buildings 1 and 3 on the attached site plan) over a common below-grade parking garage.

Formerly owned by the City of Tacoma, the land was sold to NAAM, a Bellevue-based firm, led by Luo Xun Kun, a real estate developer from Wuhan, China.

### **ART OPPORTUNITY/CONSIDERATIONS:**

The City of Tacoma's Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality, in partnership with NAAM, is seeking an artist or artist team to participate on the design team for the Tacoma Town Center complex to influence the design of public spaces, create a signature artwork, and assist in determining opportunities for artwork commissions by Tacoma artists.

The artist will be encouraged to explore connections between the Town Center and the nearby Prairie Line Trail, Museum District, University of Washington – Tacoma campus, Greater Tacoma Convention Center, and Brewery District.

Proposed space design and signature artwork should:

- Be site-responsive
- Explore connections between the Town Center and surrounding assets, including the Prairie Line Trail, Museum District, University of Washington – Tacoma campus, Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Brewery District, and adjacent businesses
- Improve the experience of the residents, visitors, and businesses within the Town Center
- Value community engagement
- Enhance the identity of the Town Center
- Relate to a diverse group of people
- Be long-lasting, durable, and require little maintenance
- Be appropriately scaled for the public spaces

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The artist or artist team will be selected based on:

- Artistic quality as exemplified in past work
- Experience working as a lead artist on a design team
- Ability to think and work in a scale and with materials appropriate to the site
- Ability to think conceptually and create signature artwork responsive to the site
- Ability to see and make connections
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Ability to work with community members as part of developing a public artwork
- Ability to identify opportunities for additional artworks that are part of a comprehensive vision

### **ABOUT CARON ARCHITECTS**

Caron Architects is the lead architect on the design team. Caron is a full-service architecture firm that provides simple, elegant designs for a wide variety of national and international clients. Since 2002, their experience in design and land-use planning allows them to offer streamlined project delivery

resulting in unique and marketable design solutions. From up-front marketing feasibility studies all the way through design and construction administration, they strive to be their clients' greatest advocate and prove that they are trusted project partners. [www.caronarchitecture.com](http://www.caronarchitecture.com)

### **ABOUT GHA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

GHA Landscape Architects is the lead landscape architectural firm on the design team. GHA takes a creative, yet practical and integrated approach to their design projects. Their projects range from single family residential projects to apartments, town homes, streetscapes, mixed use developments, and large residential plats. Over 30 years of experience allows GHA to work with the whole design team, including architects, civil engineers, and artists to create the best solutions for their clients.

### **TIMELINE\***

April 15, 2018, 11:59pm	Deadline for submissions
Late April 2018	Finalist Selection
Early May 2018	Optional Site Visit for Finalists
Early May 2018	Finalist Interviews
May 2020	Artwork Installation Deadline

*\*All dates subject to change.*

### **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Eligible artists and artist teams interested in this opportunity must submit the following three items via Submittable: <https://tacomaarts.submittable.com/submit>

**It is important to note that this is a request for qualifications, not proposals – please do not submit proposals for this opportunity:**

#### **1. Short Responses**

Responses to the following questions in 250 words or less each:

- What is your approach to public art?
- Why are you interested in this project?
- How do you see your role as part of a design team?
- What is your experience working with community?
- How are you able to contribute to an area's identity with your work?

#### **2. Work Samples with Descriptions**

10 digital images of past work with concise descriptions. If available, work samples should include documentation of similar past public projects. Artist teams are encouraged to submit work that was previously completed as a team.

#### **3. Resume & References**

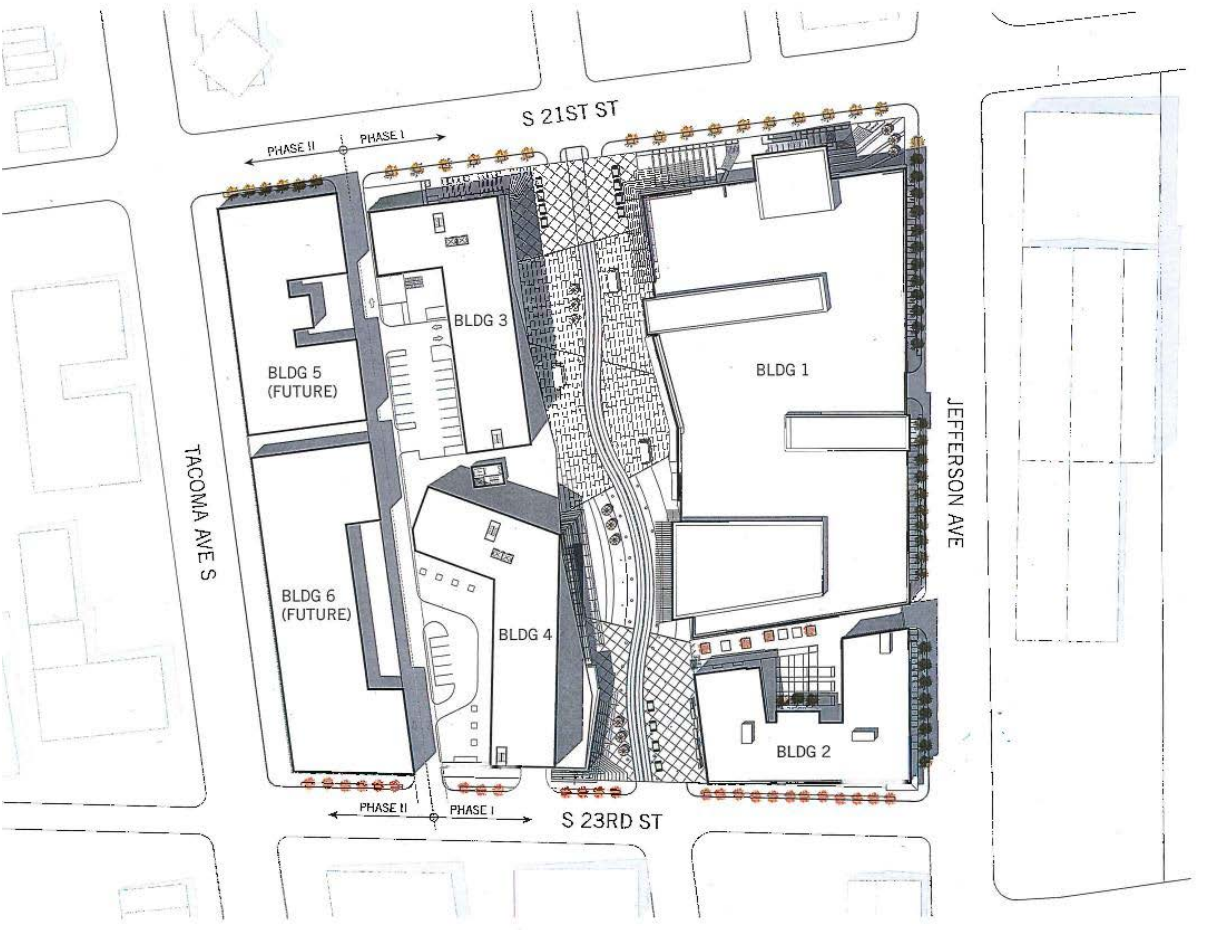
Three pages or less, including three professional references. Artist teams should submit a resume for each artist. Only finalists' references will be contacted.

### **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Naomi Strom-Avila, 253-591-5191, [nstrom-avila@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:nstrom-avila@cityoftacoma.org)



Rendering of Tacoma Town Center



Site plan for Tacoma Town Center